

Attention: All Providers

Applying for the National Provider Identifier

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996 requires the adoption of a standard unique identifier for healthcare providers. The final rule for the National Provider Identifier (NPI) was issued on January 23, 2004, and adopts the NPI as this national standard.

Healthcare providers can apply now for their NPI at the following website: <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov>. All HIPAA-covered physicians, suppliers, and other health care providers must apply for and be issued an NPI by **May 23, 2007**. In addition, all health plans must be able to accept the NPI instead of the plan specific provider identifiers on all HIPAA standard transactions by **May 23, 2007**. In other words, after this date claims submitted to Medicaid must be billed with your NPI number instead of your current Medicaid provider number.

ALERT: When applying for an NPI, you are urged to include all Medicaid provider numbers on the NPI application form. Be sure to indicate North Carolina as your state name. It is our understanding that at some point CMS will make enumeration information available to states. At that time, this information will assist DMA in the development of crosswalks between your NPI and your Medicaid provider numbers.

The Division of Medical Assistance has initiated its NPI project. Please look for future bulletins regarding procedures for gathering NPIs and taxonomies.

EDS, 1-800-688-6696 or 919-851-8888